

## ABSTRACT

The optical pickup reads an information signal by emitting a light beam to an information recording surface of  
5 a recording medium having a recording track composed of information pits arranged for recording the information signal. The optical pickup is provided with: a light source which emits the light beam having linear polarization; an optical system which guides the emitted light beam to the information  
10 recording surface and further guides light that is emitted from the information recording surface based on the guided light beam, to an optical path different from an optical path to the light source; and a light-receiving device which receives the light guided by the optical system from the  
15 information recording surface. The optical system controls a polarization direction of the emitted light beam, with respect to a direction of the recording track.